## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release July 7, 2003

Contact: Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs 517.373.7888

Sen. Martha G. Scott 517.373.7748

## Senate Democratic Caucus Announces Consumer Protection Task Force

Task force to hold insurance reform hearings across Michigan

**LANSING** – The Senate Democratic Caucus announces the formation of its Consumer Protection Task Force. Chaired by senators Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) and Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park), the task force will hold hearings across the state to take testimony on insurance reform.

"Insurance reform is a top priority for our caucus," Sen. Jacobs said. "From the large volume of constituent calls to our caucus, it is clear that Michigan citizens are looking for answers to questionable rates and practices promulgated by the insurance industry. For some folks, the issue is auto insurance related. For others, it's home and health insurance. We want to hear from all these concerned people. Their input is essential to the development of legislation to address these issues."

Sen. Scott said, "The citizens of Detroit have been dealing with redlining for far too long. We understand that this issue is not exclusively a problem plaguing the city but many communities across the state. Now is the time to work with our new insurance commissioner to resolve redlining and other long-standing insurance problems and create a fair and level playing field for everyone in Michigan."

Other members of the Senate Democratic Caucus Task Force on Consumer Protection include Sen. Burton Leland (D-Detroit), Sen. Dennis Olshove (D-Warren), and Sen. Samuel "Buzz" Thomas (D-Detroit).

The task force's first hearing is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., Mon., July 14 at the St. John NE Community Hospital located at 4777 Outer Drive in Detroit. Other hearings are scheduled in Muskegon and Saginaw for later this summer. The task force will issue a report on its findings this fall. For those unable to attend the hearings, the task force has established an online information center to help interested parties learn more about the task force's mission and submit specific questions and concerns to task force members

#####